

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 59-66, 68-70, and 72-74 are pending in this case. Claims 67, 71, and 75-77 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 59 and 72-74 are amended by the present amendment. Amended Claims 59 and 72-74 are supported by the original claims. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 59-74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 59, 61, 64, 65, and 67-71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Marx (U.S. Patent No. 3,425,147). Claims 59, 60, and 62-73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Bickford (U.S. Patent No. 4,117,614). Claim 61 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in light of Bickford in view of Marx. Claim 74 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in light of Bickford. Claims 62 and 74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in light of Marx.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 59-74 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite, Claims 59, 73, and 74 are amended to delete the phrase reciting that the coverpieces cover “in full or in part, only one side or only two adjacent sides of the panel.” Claim 72 is amended to recite “each of said cornerpieces ... covering in part only two adjacent sides of the panel.” It is respectfully submitted that amended Claims 59 and 72-74 are clearly descriptive of the embodiments shown in the drawings. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 59-74 are in full compliance with all requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 59, 61, 64, 65, and 67-71 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Marx, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent Claim 59 recites a refrigerator shelf including, *inter alia*:

a plurality of coverpieces, at least one of said coverpieces being a cornerpiece positioned to cover only one of the plurality of corners of the at least one support panel, at least one of said coverpieces including portions configured to assemble said shelf in a refrigerator chassis in a substantially horizontal configuration.

Marx discloses a display frame comprising four straight members that are slid into grooves in a panel to cover the periphery of the panel.<sup>1</sup> Members 15 cover *two* corners of the frame each.<sup>1</sup> Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Marx does not teach a cornerpiece positioned to cover *only one* of a plurality of corners of at least one support panel, as recited in Claim 59.

Marx further describes fastener 17 located on one side of the frame. Fastener 17 is configured to hang the frame in a vertical configuration, for example on a wall, as shown in Figure 6 of Marx. It is respectfully submitted that Marx does not teach portions configured to assemble a shelf in a refrigerator chassis in a substantially horizontal configuration, as recited in Claim 59.

Since the cited reference does not teach each and every element of Claim 59, Claim 59 is not anticipated by Marx and is patentable thereover.

Claims 60-66 and 68-70 depend from Claim 59, which applicant believes is patentable over Marx. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 60-66 and 68-70 are also patentable over Marx.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 59, 60, and 62-73 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Bickford, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Bickford discloses a picture frame comprising four frame legs that telescopically slide into or over the adjacent frame leg.<sup>2</sup> This allows pictures of varying size to be framed by the

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<sup>1</sup>See Marx, Figures 2-4.

<sup>2</sup>See Bickford, abstract and Figure 2.

adjustable picture frame. It is respectfully submitted that Bickford does not teach portions configured to assemble a shelf in a refrigerator chassis in a substantially horizontal configuration, as recited in Claim 59.

Since Bickford does not teach each and every element of Claim 59, Claim 59 and the claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated by Bickford and are patentable thereover.

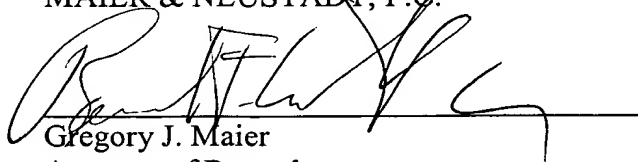
Amended independent Claims 72 and 73 recite similar elements to Claim 59. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 72 and 73 are patentable over Bickford for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 59.

With respect to the rejections of Claims 61, 62, and 74 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Bickford and/or Marx, it is further submitted that Bickford and Marx, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element of Claim 59, from which Claims 61 and 62 depend, or Claim 74, which recites similar elements to Claim 59. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all the pending claims are patentable over Bickford and Marx.

Accordingly, the outstanding rejections are traversed and the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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